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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish the crime of interference with a first responder when after receiving a lawful order to not interfere with the performance of a first responder's duties, the person approaches or remains within 25 feet of the first responder and impedes, threatens, or otherwise harasses the first responder.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to crimes and offenses; to add Section 13A-10-2.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, and to amend Section 13A-10-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to establish the crime of interference with a first responder; and to provide criminal penalties for a violation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 13A-10-2.1 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§13A-10-2.1

(a) A person commits the crime of interference with a first responder if the person approaches or remains within 25



29 feet of any first responder engaged in a lawful government
30 function after the first responder has instructed the person
31 not to approach or to vacate the area and the person does any
32 of the following:

33 (1) Impedes or interferes with the first responder's
34 ability to perform his or her duties.

35 (2) Threatens the first responder with physical harm.

36 (3) Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches the
37 first responder, or subjects the first responder to physical
38 contact.

39 (b) Interference with a first responder is a Class A
40 misdemeanor.

41 (c) This section does not apply to the obstruction,
42 impairment, or hindrance of the making of an arrest.

43 Section 2. Section 13A-10-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is
44 amended to read as follows:

45 "§13A-10-1

46 The following definitions apply in this article only
47 unless the context otherwise requires:

48 (1) FIREMAN or FIREFIGHTER. Any officer of a fire
49 department, a member of a volunteer fire department, or any
50 other person vested by law with the duty to extinguish fires.

51 (2) FIRST RESPONDER. The term as defined under Section
52 11-98-1.

53 ~~(2)~~ (3) GOVERNMENT. The state, county, municipality, or
54 other political subdivision thereof, including public county
55 and city boards of education, the youth services department
56 district, the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, and all



57 educational institutions under the auspices of the State Board
58 of Education.

59 ~~(3)~~ (4) GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION. Any activity which a
60 public servant is legally authorized to undertake on behalf of
61 a government or the fire control activities of a member of a
62 volunteer fire department.

63 ~~(4)~~ (5) GOVERNMENTAL RECORD. Any record, paper,
64 document, or thing belonging to, or received or kept by, the
65 government for information or record, or required by law to be
66 kept by others for information of the government. Any
67 educational attendance, membership, or financial report, or a
68 student's school transcript.

69 ~~(5)~~ (6) PEACE OFFICER. Any public servant vested by law
70 with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for
71 crime, whether that duty extends to all crimes or is limited
72 to specific crimes.

73 ~~(6)~~ (7) PROPERTY. Any real or personal property,
74 including books, records, and documents.

75 ~~(7)~~ (8) PUBLIC SERVANT. Any officer or employee of the
76 government, including legislators and judges and any person or
77 agency participating as an adviser, consultant, or otherwise
78 in performing a governmental function."

79 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
80 1, 2025.